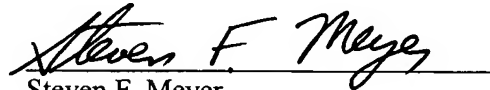


**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Entry of the above-amendment is respectfully requested prior to examination of the application. The above application was originally filed in Japanese in the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The above amendment revises the application as translated into English to be in a format more closely corresponding to that customarily employed in US patent practice.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 21, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven F. Meyer", is written over a horizontal line.

Steven F. Meyer

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